



observer

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SJC To Perform "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940"

By Becky Scherer, Editor-in-Chief

The Columbian Players of Saint Joseph's College will present John Bishop's "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" on October 21, 22, and 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Arts and Science Building Auditorium. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, and members of the SJC community are admitted free of charge.

The play begins as a team of Broadway show writers, whose last show flopped due to the murder of three chorus girls by the "Stagedoor Slasher," meet to rehearse for an audition in a secluded mansion. As the writers and the new cast prepare for the performance, a blizzard strikes, cutting off any possible retreat. Mayhem and nonsense ensue as it becomes apparent that the "Stagedoor Slasher" is trapped in the mansion alongside the unwilling guests.

"I chose this particular play because it is very funny and has a nice cast of characters, with a lot of parts to fit our current crop of Pumas," said Director John Rahe, who directed the

play for SJC in 1991. "It's time for SJC to once again perform a true comedic farce."

The cast for "Comedy Murders" includes ten students, many having appeared on the SJC stage in the past. Cast members include: sophomore Megan Barker as Helsa Wenzel; sophomore Angela Shaver as Elsa Von Grossenknueten; sophomore Andrew Jendraszak as Michael Kelly; freshman B.J. Houlding as Patrick O'Reilly; freshman Jonathan Broeker as Ken De La Maize; junior Jessica Harris as Nikki Randall; senior Brian Bugajski as Eddie McCuen; senior Erin Diener as Marjorie Baverstock; senior Adam Ways as Roger Hopewell; and junior Jennifer Savage as Bernice Roth. The production's stage managers are senior Cortny Woodruff and assistant stage manager freshman Danielle Klosowski.

For more information about "Comedy Murders," contact Rahe at extension 6318 or johnr@saintjoe.edu.



Photo courtesy of Becky Scherer.

The Observer would like to extend a belated salutation to 2004 Homecoming King and Queen seniors Brian "Bugs" Bugajski and Cortny Woodruff.

Congratulations!

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



To learn more, visit <http://www.nbcam.org/index.cfm> or to become involved in SJC affiliated activities, contact a member of Puma Women Today.

Presidential Election 2004: A Democratic Perspective

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

It's less than one month to Election Day, which means American citizens across the land must start making decisions about who will be the next president. One of the easiest ways to decide comes from the ideas set forth by political parties. Do you favor conservatism or liberalism? The most recent *Observer* laid out the Republican views. This time, the Democratic ideology is put forward.

The Democrats have chosen Senator John Kerry to represent them at this crucial time in American politics. Many Americans have criticized Kerry for, what seems to be, his indecisive stance on many of the issues that are important in today's society. Let me clarify many of his, and the Democrats, views on how this country should be run.

The Democratic Party typically represents political liberalism, favoring lower taxes for the working class, spending

government funds to help American families, and protecting all Americans' rights, regardless of income, race, or gender. When the topics of homeland security, Iraq, the economy, education, and healthcare arise, it is time to go straight to the candidate.

John Kerry's plan for securing America includes using all intelligence resources available to the United States to counter terrorism. He has stated clearly that he intends to rebuild the alliances with other nations and to use compromise to achieve that goal. He also intends to modernize the military and increase intelligence spending. In addition, Kerry plans to work toward the reduction of nuclear weapons in places like North Korea and possibly Iran.

When faced with the war in Iraq, Kerry has plans to make Iraq more secure and take our troops out of harm's way. He plans to train the Iraqi military more quickly and efficiently,

internationalize the security and reconstruction efforts, and get American troops home as quickly as is possible.

The domestic problems the United States now faces are another concern for the presidential candidate from Massachusetts. Kerry plans to create new jobs, cut taxes for middle-income Americans, and lower costs for healthcare and energy. He also proposes reducing the United States' reliance on Middle Eastern Oil to restore our competitive markets. Finally, Kerry vows to reduce the approximate \$450 billion dollar deficit by half in his first four years in office.

Healthcare and education are of particular importance to Kerry. He wants to cut premiums and prescription drug costs. His plan includes giving a minimum of ninety-five percent of the citizenry access to quality healthcare. Kerry also plans to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. He is a strong

supporter of after-school programming. He plans to offer an initiative to keep schools open later, with more programs to keep kids off the streets. Finally, Kerry will offer a special tax credit of up to \$4,000 dollars for college tuition and increase funding to states that keep tuitions low.

Kerry's website, www.johnkerry.com, has more information on these issues and more. It is an important part of our Democratic government to vote for our leaders and I encourage each and every person to take a role in shaping our future. After all, the most amazing part of living in a democracy such as the United States is that it gives the citizens the option to vote out leaders who have not fulfilled their duties to the American people. Vote on November 2.

Look for
Presidential Election 2004: Party
Debate in the next issue of The
Observer on Oct. 28.

How To Vote Away From Home

Don't worry: if you can't get to the polls on Election Day, you can still vote by absentee ballot.

How to apply for an absentee ballot:

You can obtain an application for an absentee ballot online. Visit

<https://electionimpact1.votenet.com/declareyourself/absentee.cfm>

and complete and sign the absentee ballot application and mail it to the county in which you are registered to vote.

You can also obtain an application by writing to your town clerk and including your name, address as registered, ward and precinct (if known), address to which you wish the absentee ballot to be sent, and your signature.



Visit <http://www.delcareyourself.com/>
index.html for more
important voting
information.

Don't forget to send away for your application as soon as possible so as to allow time for mail travel.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

As I've started my fourth year here at SJC, I've come to realize something: college students like to complain, and the most readily available target is the administration.

While the administration does do some asinine things from time to time, is it really as bad as we would have others believe? I'm sure the members believe they are doing their best while we believe they are doing

their worst, and, as is usually the case, the truth is somewhere in between.

We will never hear what they do right, because why should we complain about something being done correctly? I try to write about things done correctly some of the time; after all, who likes a pessimist?

Today, however, is not one of those times. Instead, I will briefly describe what I believe to

be the single worst problem this campus is faced with: lack of communication.

The different departments on campus, for the most part, have abysmal communications. Moreover, the administration has next to no communication with the general student body.

Fixing this problem would most certainly result in better productivity, and a much easier experience for almost everyone

involved. It certainly would eliminate some needless headaches caused by miscommunication or lack of communication.

We are, after all, in college. We should know the value of effective communications by now.

-- John Whelan

The Definition and Justification of Everyday Faith

By Bob Jansen, Columnist

What is faith?

"Faith becomes lame, when it ventures into matters pertaining to reason." - Gandhi

For being such a powerful word that has influenced humanity since rational thought first came into existence, faith has an incredibly ambiguous definition. In my last column, I reiterated the words of Limp Bizkit, "You gotta have faith!" In this column, I want to try to define just what faith is. What's the use in having something if we do not know what we have?

Dictionary.com defines faith as: "confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing; belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence."

Logically, then, faith has something to do with belief. What exactly is belief? Dictionary.com (to whom I probably owe my first born because I use it so much) says it is "the mental act, condition, or habit of placing trust or

confidence in another."

Putting these definitions together, we get something along the lines of placing trust in a person or idea without necessarily logical proof or material evidence. This definition does make sense when applied to everyday use of the word. My roommate has faith that the Bears will win a game or two each season. Anyone who follows sports knows that there is no logic behind his faith, but he continues to hold that belief. When someone says, "I have faith that the cafeteria will serve us good food some day," most of us would acknowledge that statement lacks logic and material evidence. That does not stop all of us from hoping. Similarly, when we place our faith in someone, there are usually not philosophical proofs to back up our positions.

The underlying theme in all of this is that faith cannot be justified by logic and reason. In

fact, faith is often branching out and putting trust in something with which even our sense may disagree. For all of you who have an empirical heart and only trust what your senses tell you, this is probably your major stumbling block with believing in God. How can I believe in something that I can't see, taste, touch, or smell? Well, perhaps it is time to reevaluate some of your own beliefs. I assume that everyone believes in love, yet there is no empirical evidence of love. I cannot tell you the size, shape, color, or smell of love. But I can tell you that I have experienced love. Most people would like to think they have minds and ideas. Based on the way some people talk in Core discussions, this may not be true. Either way, I cannot see, touch, feel, or smell an idea. My concept of the number seven is not four inches tall, nor does it weigh six ounces. I cannot poke my idea of the number seven and see if it is squishy. But I still

maintain that I have an idea of the number seven. In fact, I have faith that I do.

The same holds true for God. I cannot tell you the size, shape, color, or smell of God, yet I do have faith that He exists. God, much like love, cannot ever be shown via empirical methods that He exists. That does not mean that God does not exist. That means that empirical evidence can only take us so far. There is so much beyond the external world of sight, touch, and smell.

So keep putting faith in the Bears despite their terrible record. Keep hoping that the cafeteria will learn how to cook without adding buckets of lard. And keep these words of Gandhi in mind when contemplating that faith does not follow empirical truths: *"Just as the body cannot exist without blood, so the soul needs the matchless and pure strength of faith."*

FEATURED PHILOSOPHICAL FARCE

By Matt LeClaire, Columnist

The Myth and Legend of The Magma Fountain

Water fountains are boring. You push a button and some mildly cool liquid spouts up, arcs, then falls back to be filtered for the next parched pedestrian (there are no drive-thru water fountains).

I would like to make an amendment to water fountains: either all fountains should have a button installed to release something besides dihydrogen monoxide or they should discharge hot molten lava.

A refreshingly steamy load of liquid magma would be nice every now and again. Imagine this: you wake up in the middle of a cold night in

Rensselaer; you stumble to the facilities and relieve certain stresses; you think, "Man, I am hungry," so you roast some marshmallows on the steady stream of volcanic emission gushing from the large metal box in your dorm.

Of course, there would be accidents. The entire fountain would need to be redesigned for heat retaining purposes and to keep the metal from melting. Also, I am pretty sure lawsuits would be presented after the occurrence of many deaths or mutilations. But this could be a nice way to test the law of natural selection or maybe just a great way to get people to appreciate the oddly shaped

contraption outside the bathroom.

Some people might argue that a sugary drink or something healthy would be preferable to molten rock. I disagree wholeheartedly. Can Gatorade cook a frozen chicken? No. Can Kool-Aid melt the floor in Merlin? No. Only a good amount of lava can do all of this, my friends.

And think of the fumes, the glorious fumes! Does milk smell like sulfur? I doubt it.

So, next time you are about to drink some water jetting from a fountain, bow your head in remembrance of the ill-fated magma fountain.

*Attention
Writers:*

The Measure staff is currently accepting magazine submissions.

For more information, contact:

Measure Submissions
Editor Katie Grgic at kgi4465@saintjoe.edu or **Measure Editor-in-Chief** Becky Scherer at rsh4164@saintjoe.edu

measure
the literary society of Saint Joseph's College

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Won an award? Aced a project? Landed a role in the school play?

Accepted an internship?



If you have an accomplishment that you'd like to share with your hometown newspaper, fill out a "Student Achievement Form" so the Office of Publications and Media Relations can issue a news release about you! News can also be submitted to Director Bree Ma'Aytek by e-mailing breain@saintjoe.edu or calling extension 6177. Forms can also be faxed to her at 866-6354. To access the form online, visit the "Current Students" OR "News" link on the SJC Web site and click on "Student Achievement Form."

PAWS:

...to all the new members of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society who were inducted on September 18.

**CLAWS:**

...to all the people who leave their laundry sitting in the washing machines or dryers when the cycles have been over for hours.

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Red Cross Disaster Relief Training Offered at SJC

By Jacob Lofgren, Staff Writer

Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan; the wildfires in the giant forests of California and Arizona; and the flooding that ravaged central Indiana in the summer of 2003. Each of these events had a dramatic impact on the people affected by their wrath. Some lost homes, others were left without food or clothing, and still others lost friends and relatives.

Fortunately, hundreds of citizens volunteer their time and effort every year to assist in the relief efforts that follow these tragic events. One of the biggest respondents is typically the American Red Cross.

On the night of Tuesday, September 27, approximately ten Saint Joseph's College students met at the local home of campus minister, Ary Nelson. Nelson was more than happy to open her home to these students because they were participating in one of SJC's newest volunteer activities: training to become certified American Red Cross Disaster Relief workers.

The training began with two videotapes that gave an introduction and overview of the American Red Cross program. The videos provided ample information on what would be required of each individual when they received their certification, including the multiple jobs available. The training will continue when the trainees meet with a certified advisor from Valparaiso University in the upcoming weeks. The goal is to conclude all training and receive certification by the end of the fall semester.

After completing the training course and receiving certification, students are capable of serving at local disaster sites. After serving at two local disaster sites, relief

workers are able to serve at larger national disaster sites as they occur. Although workers are called to each disaster relief site, they are not required to serve if called. When invited to serve at any site, it is their decision to agree or refuse the request. However, if a worker agrees to the request, he or she is committed to serving there a minimum of two weeks.

What motivates students to complete the disaster training? In my personal case, the hurricanes of this past summer hit only miles from the homes of some of my relatives in central Florida. In itself, that was motivation enough to complete the training. I would only hope that had something tragic happened to my relatives someone would have been there to help them and I see it as my social responsibility to do the same for other victims. SJC junior Kara Marxer stated, "I decided to receive the training because it seemed like a wonderful opportunity not only to help people, but also to see more of the country." Marxer's words are far from self-centered; disaster relief workers are given twelve hours off for every twelve hours served at a disaster relief site, in order to prevent an extensive amount of emotional stress. They can use the free time to travel the nearby tourist sites, relax from the stress of the work, and simply enjoy themselves.

For further information about Red Cross Disaster Relief Training or to join the current group, please contact Nelson or SJC senior and student coordinator Lisa Grilliot.



**American
Red Cross**

SJC to Host Alumni Networking Luncheon for Puma Job Seekers

By Breain Ma'Aytek, Director of Publications and Media Relations

While the Halloween season may invoke frightening images of ghosts and goblins, college students have a larger concern this time of year: securing a job or internship after graduation. To that end, Saint Joseph's College will hold a special alumni networking luncheon on Saturday, October 30, at The Stargazer Inn in Rensselaer. Collaborating together for the event are the College's Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Career Development Center, and SJC's Center for Indiana Partnerships.

"Career development research consistently indicates that entry-level jobs are most easily and frequently attained by networking. This event is one of a series of upcoming events that will help current students refine their networking skills and articulate their vocational goals," explained Adam Malson, Director for the Career Development Center. "Meeting with alumni in their fields of interest also helps students identify the types of jobs

available to today's college graduates."

The alumni scheduled to be in attendance represent markets from Chicago, St. Louis, and throughout Indiana. They also provide expertise in a wide range of fields, including public relations, marketing, higher education, law, organizational management, entrepreneurship, and nonprofit work.

During the luncheon, alumni speakers will reflect on the launching of their own careers and offer advice to students on how to search for jobs and prepare for interviews. Later, students and alumni will meet individually in an activity known as "speed mentoring," where students will take but a few minutes to deliver a synopsis about themselves intended to generate a job interview from a prospective employer. Alumni will critique each pitch and repeat the activity until they've met with every student.

Student attendance for the event is selective and will draw

SJC Hosts Seventh Annual "Shack City"

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

Most of us, especially those of us from larger cities, would barely take note of somebody living on the street. But seeing somebody you know spending a night in a cardboard box would make you pay more attention. At least, that's the hope of Habitat For Humanity.

The campus chapter participated in the organization's annual "Shack City" on September 25. The event encourages students to sleep in a box for an evening to show other students that homelessness is still a very present issue today. "I knew the

event was a success when multiple people came up and asked what we were doing and I was able to raise awareness about homelessness," said SJC chapter president Brian "Bugs" Bugajski.

Bugajski added that the event was successful because of a lot of local support. Among others, he said he appreciated the efforts of the other club members, local businesses who provided boxes, and the cafeteria staff, "for giving us hot chocolate."

Another "Shack City" is possible next semester as part of the annual "Habifest."



Photos courtesy of Becky Scherer

2004 Marks the Seventh Annual Earth Science Week

By Renee Pugh, Staff Writer

This week is the seventh annual Earth Science Week. The week was founded in 1998 by the American Geological Institute in order to alert people to the constant presence of the earth sciences in our life, as well as to encourage people to care more for our planet by gaining a better understanding of its basic functions. Earth Science Week allows geoscientists to share their knowledge and enthusiasm of the earth with others who are not as familiar with this field of study.

The theme for Earth Science Week 2004 is "Living on a Restless Earth." This theme is of particular interest at present, as the eastern and southeastern coasts of the United States have recently been pounded by multiple hurricanes. Earth Science Week strives to encourage all people, regardless of scientific experience, to

explore such phenomena. "If we are to continue to maintain a high quality of life, we need to delve much more deeply into our planet - its processes, its resources, and its environment," stated Charles G. Groat, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, and Conrad C. Lautenbacher, NOAA Administrator in their *Statement on the Importance of Earth Science Education*. "Only through science education can [we] come to understand and appreciate our complex planet."

For more information on Earth Science Week, check out their website at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.



Image courtesy of <http://www.earthscienceworld.org/>

Upcoming Campus Ministry Events

October 21

Feast of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, founder of the C.P.P.S., Mass in Chapel at 4:30

October 23

Volunteer Corps Rake and Run

October 28-31

Kairos XXXIX

October 31

Volunteer Corps Trick or Treat for the Hungry

Sunday Mass at 11:15 and 9pm

Midweek Mass at 8pm on Wednesdays

Confession at 8:30 on Sundays in the Chapel

Mount St. Helens Update



Above: Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.
Far right: May 18, 1980, eruption.
Right: October 7, 2004, eruption.

Images courtesy of <http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/News/framework.html> and <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnvm/>.

After deeming the eruption on Friday Oct. 8 as the biggest the mountain has seen in 18 years, small earthquakes are still occurring on an average of one every five to ten minutes in the areas surrounding Mount St. Helens in Washington.

"A series of small earthquakes was detected in the week before Friday afternoon's eruption. This seismic activity decreased shortly after the noon eruption, but picked up again within hours. The mountain then vented a combination of steam and ash for 24 minutes, sending a pale gray column nearly 10,000 feet into the blue Washington sky. Scientists said the presence of magma could indicate the potential for a more serious eruption," although evidence of magma at the surface of the mountain has yet to be found.

"Scientists had been predicting just such a minor eruption after swarms of small earthquakes were detected and the mountain's volcanic dome shifted three inches since Monday."

"Friday's eruption was a mere sideshow in comparison to the cataclysmic eruption May 18, 1980, which blew off more than 1,000 feet from the top of the mountain. That eruption killed 57 people, left deep piles of ash hundreds of miles away, and caused \$3 billion in damage. After that disaster, small eruptions continued at Mount St. Helens until 1986, when the volcano finally went quiet. Friday's eruption was comparable to the minor eruptions seen during that period."

Information gathered from <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/science/10/01/mount.st.helens/>
All information presented is as of October 11, 2004, unless otherwise noted.

Little Sibs' Weekend 2004: An SJC Student's Reflection

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

After a great time last year, my little brother Patrick returned for Round 2 of Little Sibs' Weekend. I could tell by the look on his face when he arrived at 9 PM on Friday night that the allure of Rensselaer, Indiana, was strong; he was ready for the SJC experience.

The very first thing we did was watch that all-American classic film Eight Crazy Nights. One never tires of Adam Sandler's scatological humor. Eager to prepare ourselves for the excitement of the day ahead, Patrick and I called it a night.

Saturday morning – or was it Saturday afternoon? – Patrick and I met with my honorary little sib (who actually graduated high school with me) Stephanie. Since Patrick and I had already had lunch at the cafeteria – the spaghetti, Patrick deemed "marvelous" – we all went to experience the *crème de la crème* of Rensselaer's fine dining – Arby's. Stephanie regaled us with tales of the big city – Indianapolis – while enjoying a Beef 'n Cheddar with cheese fries. A wonderful time was had by all. But that was only the beginning.

After finishing our gourmet food and beverages, we set off to a

place that deserves equal excitement, if not more – the SJC Library! Stephanie had to fill out time sheets for tutoring while Patrick made his own kind of fun by trying out every chair he could see.

"I preferred the ones that twirl," he exclaimed on retrospection of the event.

The night had only just begun, though. We all braced ourselves for the splendor and wonderment that we planned on experiencing at the Little Sibs' Carnival.

Upon stepping into the ballroom, we were all speechless. I believe Stephanie's reflection on the event speaks for us all, "It was the saddest carnival I've ever seen." There really was nothing of interest for older siblings there at all. Sure, they had a tic-tac-toe thingy at which you could throw bean bags, but the excitement of such a contraption can only last so long. We left the carnival disappointed while all the younger siblings made bracelets and hurled bean bags.

Stephanie, Patrick, and I have experienced such disappointment before, though, and when life gives us lemons, we know how to make a lemonade stand! We then

proceeded to take pictures at different random monuments on campus. We started at the Amobius, the almost amorphous sculpture behind the Core Building. Though Patrick wanted a picture of his jumping through it, I temporarily played the parent and just had him stand beside it.

"Come on," he'd said. But I held strong. See, I can say "no" sometimes! We followed this picture by going into Halleck. I then took a picture of Patrick mimicking the random head at the top of stairs, and to finish off our crazy rampage, I took a rather incriminating photo of Patrick with the purple puma sculpture now thankfully hidden beside the unused big screen TV beside the bookstore. Ah, memories.

Since we were there and we were hungry, we all got some pizza in the ballroom, which almost made up for the carnival. It was some good pizza, though Stephanie was disappointed in the lack of cheese pizza. C'mon, people – how many kids don't eat cheese pizza?!

To work off that non-cheese pizza, Patrick, Stephanie, and I ran to the field adjacent to Schwietermann for a random bout

of Frisbee throwing. You'd be surprised how difficult it is to throw a Frisbee when you're out of practice! It was enjoyable, though. It was even fun when I was hit upside the head when Stephanie's Frisbee went astray while I was staring at the cornfield. Only in Indiana.

To finish off the night, we all went to my room to watch some quality films. We began by watching that modern classic The Scorpion King. If you haven't seen it, we recommend it *highly*. It's so quotable! Just think of the Rock – aka Dwayne Johnson – decked out in clothes made of burlap while saying, after having murdered a bunch of barbarians, "You're lucky we have the same mother." It doesn't get much better than that.

We also watched a few old-school favorites: Ducktales the Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp and The Chipmunk Adventure. They really don't make movies like they used to – especially '80s movies! To end the night, we then watched Eight Crazy Nights again! (Like I said, it never gets old!)

All in all, I think everyone had a blast. But would Patrick want to return next year? "Yeah, of course, I will! I'll git 'er done next year!"

Far Right: Patrick Waclaw at Halleck, Right: Patrick at Amobius, Bottom: Patrick with Puma



Photos by Danny Waclaw



Puma Spotlight: Jessica Catron

Before coming to Saint Joseph's College this fall, Jessica Catron, the daughter of Laura Catron and a native of Peoria, Illinois, was presented with the Nathan Lee Rueb Award for her three-year involvement with the Richwoods High School orchestra. A viola player, Catron was involved in the French Club, Scholastic Bowl, Club International, and Health Science Academy during her high school years. She also worked at Proctor Hospital as an emergency room technician and was honored as Student of the Year by the Academy. Catron is a Biology major at SJC.

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

Every April for the last forty-one years, the serenity of the grotto has been violated by the noise of the annual event we all know and love, Little 500. "April 27th, 1963," to be exact, "witnessed the first Little 500 on campus, and the first Little 500 Weekend, in imitation of similar races run at other colleges," wrote Fr. Charles J. Robbins in Saint Joseph's College: A Chronology. The first few years the karts used were man-powered. "Each car had two alternating drivers and ten pushers," he continued.

Students had total freedom when designing their karts. They utilized every scrap of material on campus to build the perfect push-kart, even commandeering Father Gerlach's tires from his bicycle. The track ran around the Science Building and past Raleigh Hall, and the race lasted for four hours. The race has undergone many changes since then.

In 1971 the people-powered karts were replaced with horsepower when engines were first used for the race. With the engines came restrictions to karts for safety reasons, and homemade karts were outlawed. In that first motorized race, driver Ed Carter took the first place prize of \$500, despite his pit crew having to change his engine in 90 seconds. 1971 was a big year for Little 500 because in addition to being the first motorized race it was also the

first televised race on Rensselaer's Channel 8.

The motorized track has changed over the years also. Prior to 1995 and the erection of the Core Building, the track ran around the grotto, past the water tower and power plant, in front of Seifert Hall, before turning back towards the grotto. With construction finished on the Core Building, the track was changed to its current length of a mile around only the grotto, utilizing the parking spots in front of Halas Hall as a pit area. In addition to the student race there is also an alumni race open to any and all alumni that raced when they were students. The alumni race has proven very popular for the "old" drivers, and almost brings back as many alums as homecoming. The latest upgrade for Little 500 is the addition of an electronic scoring system in 2003.

The student and alumni races are not the only things that go on during Little 500 week. During the week, while the drivers are working on their vehicles in the garages, the rest of campus is entertained with the Mr. and Ms. Puma contests. On race day the IM field is lined with booths from different campus organizations which have included an R.A. dunk tank, rock climbing wall, and the favorite of all alumni and seniors, the beer and brat tent.

Little 500 has always been an event to look forward to every year; however, this year we are in jeopardy of losing this tradition. Over the last 30 years the number of people helping out to make Little 500 a reality has fallen from 300 to virtually 2 and the number of drivers has fallen from 30 to 7. Somewhere along the line the student body has altered the mentality of the race from an entertaining weekend with alumni and race cars to an all out drunkfest, and that is not only unacceptable, but is also the reason why this tradition's future hangs at the edge of extinction.

Movie Review: Equilibrium

By Matt LeClaire, Staff Writer

With Star Wars still months away and all The Matrix sequels leaving audiences unsatisfied, I am here to help you and your mother. A small chain of tightly compressed, crystallized carbons has been lying in the proverbial rough this whole time. Equilibrium, starring Christian Bale, is a beautifully constructed sci-fi action flick that will not disappoint. Christian Bale is quickly making a name for himself here in the U.S. Bale, originally from Wales, starred in American Psycho, and will play Bruce Wayne in the upcoming Batman movie.

Equilibrium is set in a post-apocalyptic future where emotion has been eradicated by a single drug. Christian Bale plays the perfect, apathetic, antagonistic hero, John Preston. Preston is the head of an elite task force, opposing lawbreakers. One day, he drops his dose of Prozium, the anti-emotion drug, on the ground. Throughout the day, he slowly starts caring about colors, beauty, and the value of human life. Thus, the villain becomes the hero and the world is never to be the same again.

Mixing several ideas from Brave New World and gun-slinging martial arts battles creates a stunning work of cinematic poetry. The battles are neither gory nor overdone, and the storyline is neither campy nor slow. Equilibrium is also well paced. It gives the viewer a good amount of plot and acting, then rewards the moviegoer with a nice little firefight. The ubiquitous special effects are not over-powering, and the slow motion is used in unexpected places to create a wonderful rhythm throughout the film.

For its balance of action, story, and drama, its off-beat actors, and its overall execution, I rate Equilibrium a nine out of ten.

New View on a Classic: Shakespeare's Hamlet

By Joe Larson, Staff Writer

Sure, I could review an actual "book" in this book review, but let's face it: books are long and literacy is for losers. So instead I'll write about a play, mainly because plays are short and usually have sparknote support. Written by the guy who taught us that it's cool to stab Caesar, Hamlet reminds readers that there's something rotten in the state of Denmark- and this time it's not just Gertrude's chronic flatulence. The action of the play really gets going when the ghost of Hamlet's father tells Hamlet of a "murder most foul." Hamlet responds by boldly milling around for most of the play, only to initiate an orgy of murder at the very end. This killing spree results in the deaths of pretty much every important character in the play. All and all, it's a good ending.

Some modern readers may think that the dialogue in Hamlet sounds stilted and artificial, but recent evidence suggests that people from Shakespeare's time actually talked in unrhymed lines of iambic pentameter. They were taken to verse school at an early age, a caring institution in which only the best poets in the class were given food. Those who were

rich enough to avoid the verse schools hired teams of professional writers to help them through everyday speech. After the necessary writing and editing, a basic conversation could take upwards of sixteen hours to complete. There are many recorded incidents of entire families burning alive as they tried to warn each other of fire in verse form.

Besides the language, there are other elements of Hamlet guaranteed to get the attention of modern readers. The sexual tension between Hamlet and Gertrude reminds readers that incest never goes out of style. Fortunately, Hamlet is too busy moping to actually score with his mom. Despite the incest and murder, I cannot recommend this play because of the slight chance that it has educational value. Rather than reading books for educational purposes, why not burn them for warmth? Learning is a fine concept, but it can't stop frostbite. On a side note, Hamlet ends with the deaths of most of its major characters. I'm not sure on this, but I think Shakespeare's dead, too. All things considered, I think I smell a sequel.



Comedian Tom Cotter, as seen on *The Tonight Show* and *Comedy Central* came to SJC to present his routine.

Photo by Amanda Gibson

Cup o' Joe's Open Mic Night

By Teresa Moreno, Staff Writer

On a chilly Thursday evening, I ventured off to Cup o' Joe. There, the first Open Mic Night of the year was scheduled. When I arrived, I grabbed a cup of joe and began to warm up a bit. Upon finishing my cup of coffee, I noticed that there were no musicians in sight. I began to question myself. Suddenly, out the corner of my eye, I saw the top of a guitar case. Wait, make that two guitar cases! I was almost as overjoyed as the day Interpol released Antics. (More on this wonderful band in the next issue.) I began to thank God as they started to tune their guitars. After getting their guitars properly tuned, Juniors Kurt Laurinaitis and Chris Moran began to play for us.

Throughout the evening they covered quite a few bands. Together, they played their own rendition of The Bare Naked Ladies' "If I Had a Million Dollars." It was quite an enjoyable cover. As the night progressed, Moran played "Breakfast at Tiffany's" by Deep Blue Something. I quickly remembered how much I liked the song and began to sing along. After Moran was finished, Laurinaitis gave us a real treat and played a song he composed himself. I thought it was really great that he pulled out some of his own music.

If you are a musician or are a music lover, you should really consider stopping by Cup o' Joe on the next Open Mic Night. Whether you go to perform or to listen, it's a great way to share your love of music with others.

Pass Protection Key to New High-Octane Offense

A Special Report from Ken Badylak

The Saint Joseph's College Football program is trying to establish a new tradition on campus: scoring points. Head Coach Tim Lester is in the process putting together an offense that within four years can outscore any opponent on the schedule.

In the mean-time, the Pumas will continue to practice and learn the new offense. The groundwork is already in place for Coach Lester's fast break offense. Coach Lester will install more of the offense as the players learn the basics to perfection. Right now, Coach Lester's comfort level is not high enough to put in a five wide receiver formation. When the comfort level rises, the Puma offensive can become more explosive. Parts of Coach Lester's expectations consist of averaging 30 points per game and limiting turnovers. "The level of difficulty in this offense is high," said Coach Lester.

During a game, Coach Lester takes calculated risks and chooses higher percentage plays in order to put the Pumas in better positions to win. The most important part of the offense lies on the shoulders of the offensive line. "We go as they go," said Coach Lester. Being an offensive lineman does not have many perks nor is it a glorified position. Any recognition an offensive lineman receives is usually negative. Coaches especially will notice when a lineman has missed a block and the quarterback is lying on the ground.

This style of offense has taken a complete turn from last season. There is a bigger belief and commitment amongst the players. Sophomore left guard Marcus Wagner explains that the Pumas have been working with this offensive system for three months. Piece by piece the offense was installed this past spring during which the offensive linemen's technique and footwork were improved. Wagner, an elementary education/physical education double major, believes when making adjustments, players must trust their coaches and learn fundamentals. "Take your steps and hit someone," said Wagner.

Last season Dave Beale was a defensive lineman, and now the senior physical education major is playing on the offensive line as the right guard. Beale has adjusted well to the new position and offense by admitting the game is starting to slow down.

Being an offensive lineman comes with pride. For the offense to succeed the line needs to protect freshman quarterback Anthony Lindsey and the various running backs that Coach Lester uses throughout the game.

Sophomore left tackle/right tackle Ron Tyner reiterates the comments of his teammates that the offensive line makes the team go. "We take it personal when the quarterback is sacked or there is not a hole for the running back," said Tyner. Tyner, also a physical education major, agrees with his teammates that this fast break offense will continue to put up points this season.

Although the offensive line is not deep, Coach Lester wants to sustain the

win against the University of Upper Iowa on October 2nd. Being down 17-0 early in the first quarter, the Pumas rallied to get a 34-33 win. Beale and Tyner agree that last year's team would never have believed in themselves enough to rally from neither 17 points nor 13 points with eight minutes remaining. "We are working more as a team," said Beale. Beale recounts that last season it was a challenge just to see who would make it through the week of practice. Now the

move the pocket or have the offensive line pass block to relieve some of the pressure.

Confidence has contributed to the success of the Pumas. Coach Lester explains that egos do not run short with the players on this team. An ego is a natural part of a person's personality. However, confidence is gained through a good work ethic, better preparation, and better practice.

Nevertheless, the consensus of the offensive line seems to be that it is fun to play offense at Saint Joseph's College.



All photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland C.PPS



For this new offense to be successful, Redshirt Freshman Ron Tyner (70) and Sophomore Marcus Wagner (72) must create an air-tight pocket for freshman quarterback Anthony Lindsey (11).

health of the linemen by putting them in better situations while on the field and practice. As the season continues, the linemen will have lighter practices (less hitting) but will continue to practice at full speed to adjust to game speed.

The overall difference from last year's team and this year's team came in the

Pumas are healthy and better prepared for game day.

Last season Tyner red-shirted, and his main contributions were on the scout team. However, even the scout team felt the pain of heavy hitting practices. With the old offense, a lineman takes a beating every play. This season, Coach Lester can

NIGHT & DAY

A comparison of the aerial attack from 2003 to 2004.

QUARTERBACK COMPARISON

'03	'04
Nate Durant	Anthony Lindsey
141 ATT.	169 ATT.
71 COMP.	99 COMP.
3 T.D.	12 T.D.
4 INT.	5 INT.
1056 YARDS	1116 YARDS
16.8 PPG.	26.8 PPG.

*Through 11 games

*Through 5 games

Do you like sports?
Do you like to write?

Contact Adam Mandon
at ext. 5139 if you are
interested in writing for
The Observer.

Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home Games

October 15

Women's Tennis vs. Lake Superior State 9:00 a.m.
Men's Soccer vs. Bellarmine 5:00 p.m.
Volleyball vs. Indianapolis 7:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Bellarmine 7:30 p.m.

October 16

Men's Tennis--Pumas Fall Class T.B.A.

October 17

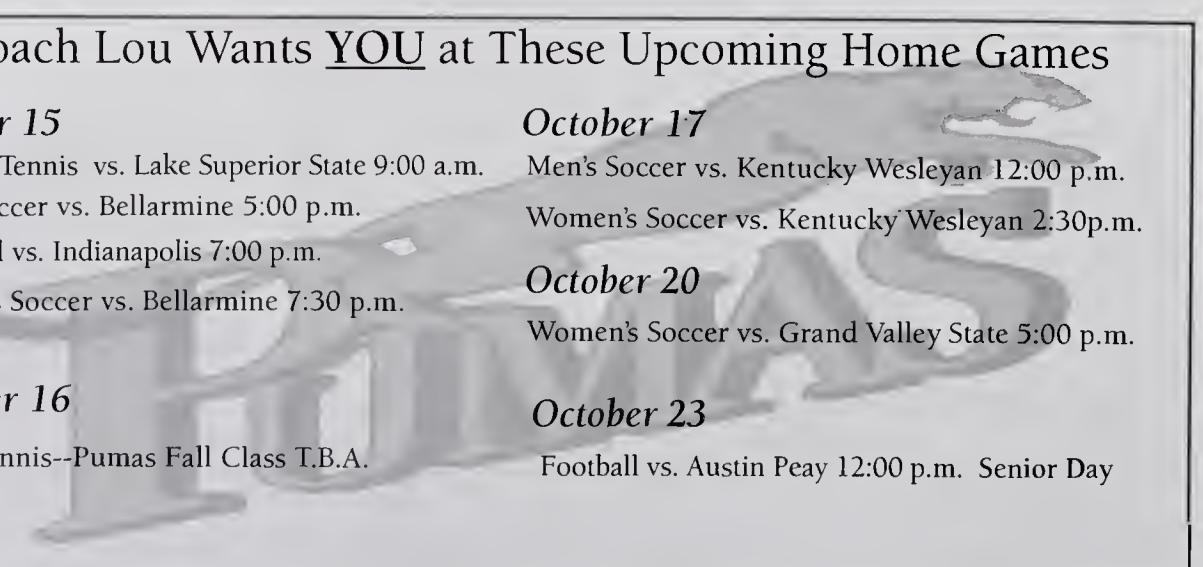
Men's Soccer vs. Kentucky Wesleyan 12:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Kentucky Wesleyan 2:30p.m.

October 20

Women's Soccer vs. Grand Valley State 5:00 p.m.

October 23

Football vs. Austin Peay 12:00 p.m. Senior Day



Puma Softball Riding High

By Allison Segarra,
Staff Reporter

Successful. Intense. Strong. These are the three adjectives to describe the Saint Joseph's College Puma Softball team thus far in the fall season. It will come to a close at the beginning of October, following a long weekend on the road to Evansville and West Lafayette. Besides all of the traveling, fall ball includes the notorious 100 inning game. The team plays 100 consecutive innings of softball in front of family and friends who have sponsored the event in order to raise money for their annual spring break trip to Florida. It is a great chance for players and families to get to know each other better.

Conditioning and "winning attitudes" are two main points of focus during the fall season, commented head coach Frank Wilkins. Of course all of this pre-season play gives the team a chance to configure the starting line-up and get a sneak peak of what spring could possibly bring. Senior infielder Erin Kardash also thinks getting a head start builds team unity immediately.

So why are the Pumas so successful out of the gate? Maybe it is the fact that Coach Wilkins recruited with the intent to cover every position. Freshman Jesse Privett, Stephanie Zimny, and Ashley Emmett were all-state players last year. Privett was also the top high school pitcher in the state of Indiana. She plays a mean first base and packs a ferocious swing to boot. Zimny was an all-state pitcher as well,

but also plays second base, and has intense speed around the bases. Emmett was an all-state outfielder and will be expected to steal a lot of bases in the spring. Other additions to the team include Danielle Austin, Krystina Davis, Kristi Taylor, and Melissa Cooper. The upperclassmen all agree that all of the underclassmen are doing a phenomenal job of stepping up to the plate (no pun intended).

Let's not forget about the coveted seniors. They are very experienced ladies who know how to welcome the freshman and help them get adjusted to playing at the collegiate level. There are seven softball seniors this year (Jen Willig, Jen Tenpas, Michelle Ellis, Fire Kapelinski, Ashley Safstrom, Erin Kardash, and Katherine Caruso) who are ready to go out with a bang. Senior first basemen Kapelinski said, "I just want to walk away from this season knowing that I gave it my all... NO REGRETS!" Coach Wilkins said. "Our upperclassmen are the best group of players and students that I have had the pleasure of coaching in the past five years."

All the pieces of the puzzle are present and accounted for. Talent, depth in every position, and sheer determination to stay healthy in order to make it to the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship. According to Wilkins, "It's just going to take a lot of hard work, and a little bit of luck... It's going to be fun and we are going to make SJC proud."

SJC Baseball Wraps Up Another Successful Fall Season

By Allison Segarra, Staff Reporter

They have one of the best facilities in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, they have the most dedicated players on campus, and they have a sincere love for the game. What team boasts these supreme qualities? The Saint Joseph's College Puma Baseball team.

The guys have completed their fall season and are feeling confident about what is to come this spring. Sophomore outfielder Kevin Diete commented on the purpose of playing fall ball. "It's about preparation... we should all know exactly how to execute each play in a game situation when spring arrives."

An addition of two coaches has also brought a new approach to the fall season which has been vital to the team. There have been more offensive practices and intense conditioning to promote speed and power. This will be key to their success in the spring. The new coaches include 2004 graduate and Chicago White Sox minor leaguer Garrett Guest and Matt Kennedy. Their passion and knowledge of the

game has been a distinct tool for group motivation. Kennedy is a hitting and outfield coach, while Guest is their "utility" coach and all-around type of guy.

Senior pitcher Mike Stawski believes that fall ball provided a chance to see what newcomers can offer to the team. "It also keeps the returning players sharp in terms of their skills," he said.

These "newcomers" have been expertly recruited by head coach Rick O'Dette who has returned for his fifth season coaching SJC baseball. Senior first baseman Luke Barrett has confidence that the freshman class is a "solid class for the future." The underclassmen play a large role during fall season. "Without them we can't be successful in the spring," said Stawski.

Other additions to the team include transfer students from junior colleges. Juniors Zack Hennings and Josh Hinton have proven their pitching skills this fall. Barrett let it be known that SJC already has "the best pitching staff in the conference." He said, "I would put it up against

CUBS CHOKED

Editorial by Adam Mandon
Sports Editor

You still think Sammy Sosa is a man who loves the city of Chicago and the game of baseball? You believe Dusty Baker is a godly figure as you finely iron your \$25 "In Dusty We Trusty" t-shirt? The true colors of the Chicago Cubs were shown this season.

We learned the combined I.Q. of this team is equivalent to a gnat. Base-running blunders, defensive mental lapses and the lack of situational hitting cost the Cubs what should have been the greatest summer in Chicago's history.

We learned Sammy Sosa is a phony fake, steroid abuser who cares more for homeruns and less for winning. He is an insecure child playing in the city of broad shoulders.

We learned Dusty Baker has the attitude of a 15-year-old girl who became consumed with his identity rather than winning ballgames. Popularity was paramount with the skipper of the Cubs. When people gossiped behind his back, he was quick to get defensive. When all signs pointed to drop Sosa down in the order, Baker left Sosa in the three-hole to wither.

We learned Kerry Wood will continue to choke in big game situations. He gave up five earned runs in seven innings in game one of the season-ending series against the Atlanta Braves.

We learned that injuries were used as an excuse time and time again. Explain this to me...pitcher Glendon Rusch had never finished a season with a winning record. In fact, last season he was coming off of a 1-12

campaign in 2003 with the Milwaukee Brewers. Placing this southpaw (the only lefthanded starting pitcher) into the rotation actually benefited the Cubs. How is a 6-2 record with a 3.47 ERA an adversity? Injuries to this team gave other players the chance to step up, and they filled in nicely. From Jose Macias to Todd Hollandsworth to recently Neifi Perez, each one of these "useless bench players" all did a decent job filling in during the season. Injuries were finally not an excuse because this team had the lead in the Wild Card and was 100 percent healthy--and they still could not hold on. NO MORE EXCUSES.

We finally learned this Cubs team is designed for average, at best, defensively, and an offense relied entirely too much on the long ball. Had the Cubs shortened their swings in clutch situations just a few times this season, they might be playing right now.

This team is in for major changes next season. Moises Alou will be gone, as well as the sneaky captain Sammy Sosa. The team will part with either Todd Walker or Mark Grudzielanek at second base, Nomar Garciaparra will head for hometown LA and Matt Clement has probably received dozens of calls from the Yankees brass in desperate need of good arms.

This is the best Chicago baseball team I have seen in my lifetime. It is better than the White Sox of '93 and '94, and it's certainly better than the luckiest baseball team in the history of the game, the Cubs of '98. This team on paper is better than last year's. But the hunger just wasn't there. It should be an interesting offseason.

Paulsen, Rassam Named IFA Players of Week

By Adam Mandon, Sports Editor

Freshman Dan Paulsen and senior Jordan Rassam have been named the offensive and defensive players of the week, respectively, by the Independent Football Association for the first week of October. Paulsen snagged nine balls for 185 yards and made three trips to paydirt, a school record. Rassam collected seven tackles to go along with four tackles for a loss. He also wreaked havoc in the Peacock's backfield recording 1.5 sacks against Upper Iowa. The Independent Football Alliance is an association of seven NCAA Division II institutions which are not in a conference for football.



Paulsen, along with Rassam (left) were named the IFA Defensive Players of the Week

**LISTEN TO THE TIM LESTER SHOW THURSDAYS
AT 7:00 PM. ON 90.5 PUMA ROCK**

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you've been feeling guilty about something in one of your personal relationships, now is the time to swallow your pride and apologize. You are very articulate right now, and you will be able to convey exactly how you're feeling to the other person without making the situation any worse.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You've been feeling slightly gloomy lately, and your mood could definitely stand some improvement. Treat yourself to something special, like a long walk in the country, or a long, warm bubble bath. Your spirits need to be brightened, and only you can brighten them for yourself.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You're very energetic right now, but it is important that you focus that energy on what's important in your life. Do not waste this fleeting energy on something that will not help you in the long run; look ahead and see what you can do now to ensure your future happiness.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

It is especially important that you take great caution in your dealings with others right now. You have the tendency to leap before looking, and this can get you into a lot of trouble, especially now. Don't be too trusting of those whom you barely know; it's better to be safe than sorry.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are generally a fairly sensitive and sympathetic person, and your friends value this quality of yours the most. Do not become annoyed with them when they constantly seek out your compassionate counsel, but be flattered that they thought to come to you first in their time of need.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If it seems like everything in your life has been going wrong lately, don't worry! This chain of bad luck you've been having will soon pass and you will find yourself much more fortunate and confident than you did before. Even bad things can produce good effects in your life.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

If you find yourself in an argument sometime soon, your best bet will be to compromise with the person and try to reach some middle ground. You are by nature a very strong-willed person, so this may be difficult for you, but it is the only way you will resolve this argument.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

It is extremely important for you to consider practicality above anything else right now. Choosing something that will not yield good long-term benefits in your life is not advisable, as you are likely to regret this decision down the road. Think realistically, not idealistically.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sometimes it is okay for you to sit back and let others take control for awhile. Even though this is against your nature, it is in your best interest right now. Trust that others will make well-informed decisions and lead you down the right path, and you will be quite happy with the results.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Be careful about hiding your inner feelings from a friend or romantic interest. Your moods are especially transparent right now, so others who are close to you and who care about you will be able to see right through you. Be honest, or you will surely be caught up in your lies.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Sometimes a bad mood can be alleviated simply by surrounding yourself by familiar faces. You may need to do just this right now to clear your mind and feel more at ease with yourself. Plan to spend the afternoon or evening just casually hanging out with your friends and you will feel much better.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If a troubling situation presents itself in the near future, listen to your first instinct regarding the matter. You are especially intuitive right now, and your first reaction to a problem will probably be the best way for you to solve it. Trust your instincts and all will work out well in the end.

You Know You're a College Student...

- ~If you average 3 hours of sleep a night.
- ~If you go to Wal-Mart more than 3 times a week.
- ~If you wake up 10 minutes before class.
- ~If you wear the same jeans 13 days in a row — without washing them.
- ~If you typically have less than a dollar with you.
- ~If you celebrate when you find a quarter.
- ~If your backpack is giving you Scoliosis.
- ~If your idea of feeding the poor is buying yourself some Ramen Noodles.
- ~If you live in an area that is smaller than most mobile homes.
- ~If you get more e-mail than mail.

Courtesy of <http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/6174/h-colle.html>

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Do you have an original short story, poem, reflection, comic, or other work that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at swh4014@saintjoe.edu to

How Flexible is Your Mind?

This test is designed to measure your mental flexibility and creativity. Studies show that very few people are able to solve more than half of these 23 puzzles on the first try. A very small percentage of people are able to complete the test after a few days. See how well you can do. The answers will be printed in the next issue of The Observer.

Each puzzle contains the initials of words that will make it a correct phrase. For example, 12 M. in a Y. = 12 months in a year.

1. 26 L. in the A.
2. 7 W. of the W.
3. 1,001 A. N.
4. 12 S. of the Z.
5. 54 C. in a D. (with the J.)
6. 9 P. in the S. S.
7. 88 P.K.
8. 13 S. on the A. F.
9. 32 D. F at which W. F.
10. 18 H. on a G. C.
11. 90 D. in a R.A.
12. 200 D. for P. G. in M.
13. 8 S. on a S.S.
14. 3 B. M. (S. H. T. R.)
15. 4 Q. in a G.
16. 24 H. in a D.
17. 1 W. on a U.
18. 5 D. in a Z. C.
19. 57 H. V.
20. 11 P. on a F. T.
21. 1,000 W. that a F. is W.
22. 29 D. in F. in a L. Y.
23. 64 S. on a C. B.

Courtesy of Campbell's Printers



SJC Poet's Corner

The Bloody Rose

You can admire a rose,
And be unharmed by its thorns,

Yet you cannot hold a rose
Without being cut by its thorns.

Yet from a stem of thorns,
Comes a rose,
The only way it is nourished
and held firm.
As through pain and suffering,
A couple can make it through,
And the outcome is beautiful,
sweet, stable and strong.

Without trials, how do you
know how strong you are?
Without pain, how do you
know how much you can
handle?

At times it seems that the rose
fades too often,
And thorn bushes surround
you.
That anything loved is lost,
And that anything perfect and

true
Has been dismayed.
Silver has tarnished,
And gold has been buried.

If only we polished our silver,
And revealed our gold,
Then the petals of the rose
would unfold.

Yet here, so many take only the
rose,
They cruelly pluck off the top,
Yet sweet and pleasurable be it
for the moment,
It rapidly wilts and dies inevita-
bly.

You cannot take the rose
Without the thorn
If you want anything to grow.
Because the rose can only be
held up
By a stem of thorns.
Through it endures all fate and
scorns.

Oh sweet pain,
Only true love through you can
sustain.
Be it trueness that you chose,

So sweet be the stem decked
with thorns,
That only through it, can bare
the rose.

Together

you and i
will never rest
until you see
that i am
just me.

you and i
will never rest
until i prove
that i don't
have anything
to prove.

you and i
will never be
until you see me
through
the mask.
you and i
will never be
until you know

me
without
this world
attached.

you and i
will never be
what
you want
to see
without
you knowing
who you are.

you and i
will never be
what the world
wants.
so why pretend?
let's just be
us...
alone..

-Melissa Alba

Want to see your poem
in print??? Email
swh4014@saintjoe.edu